

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service offers news accounts and editorial comment on national and international news in the industrial, labor, and political fields, and covers information of benefit to the trade union movement.

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1632

WILLIAM GREEN, President

WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JULY 21, 1942

GREEN: Editor, Executive-Trustees

WE PLEDGE—
1 MILLION DOLLARS
FOR VICTORY BONDS
FOR VICTORY BONDS

FOR VICTORY

VOL. 32, NO. 29

FACING THE FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

They're off again! The game that is determined to lick labor first and then, maybe, Hitler, has started playing on new premises. This time it's for a five-hour toiling in the faith that those who think all this can be cured by a five-hour freeze wage.

Again the host and he has been taken up. Again the daily newspapers are pontificating about inflation. Again the radio-columnists are pontificating about inflation. Again the public press represents the formula as a victory for labor and a dangerous one at that.

The newspapers are wrong, not about Little Steel but about other employers in America, for when they serve as public defenders. They fear that if all other employers were to pay similar increases in wages, profits will diminish. So, naturally, they are screaming about inflation.

Labor Offers a Remedy

But the best guarantees against inflation has never been offered by labor itself. The program submitted to Congress and to President Roosevelt by the American Federation of Labor is a sure cure for inflation if it is fully carried out.

So to guard against inflation, the newspapers and the employers want it to be put into the pockets of American workers in the form of wage increases, this additional buying power inevitably will result in inflation.

New inflation is not a new thing, it is as old as the hills. As President Green pointed out, the millionaire stands to lose only part of the value of his wealth, while the worker loses his bread and butter, his health and even his life.

So to guard against inflation, the AFL program provides that in the future wage increases shall be paid in whole or in part in the form of war bonds—a specific plan to spend the money.

This plan diminishes the argument of the reactionaries that wage increases result in inflation, because it will be impossible to spend the money until after the war, when it will come in handy as an offer of possible defense.

But will the newspapers accept and cheer the AFL plan? Not a chance! For they are not sure about the war bonds as about paper for the workers. They use the inflation scare as another excuse to shift the entire burden of the war on the backs of labor. And some public officials, including Leon Henderson, are trying to cover up their own deficiencies and mismanagement by pointing to the responsibility in making labor the scapegoat.

Thanks Down On Wage Freezing

Why don't labor laws come any more just? Because it is a tricky form of wage-freezing. It ties the income of labor to the cost of living at a certain level. It means that if the cost of living goes up, then labor will not stand for any form of wage freezing by legislation or Government action.

Control of wages and prices by the Government is a necessary evil, but it is not a permanent one. It is a temporary measure to deal with the emergency. It is not a permanent one. It is a temporary measure to deal with the emergency.

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Army-Navy Labor Policy Set Up

In 100 Government-Owned Plants

Washington, D. C.—Under Secretary of War Robert Patterson and Assistant Secretary of the War Relocation Authority, a new labor policy for government-owned, privately-operated plants.

The policy, affecting nearly 100 government-owned plants, was evolved over a period of months in collaboration with representatives of organized labor.

They included President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, President Philip Murray of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, Joseph A. P. Kelly, chairman of the A. F. of L. Executive Council, and the A. F. of L. Executive Council, and the A. F. of L. Executive Council.

An official statement, issued by the War Relocation Authority, said that the policy was developed in collaboration with the War Relocation Authority, and the War Relocation Authority.

Congress has charged the War Relocation Authority with the responsibility for the operation of the 100 government-owned plants. The War Relocation Authority is to be responsible for the operation of the 100 government-owned plants.

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AL Hits Wage Freezing Schemes, Offers Anti-Inflation Program, "Life And Death Matter" Green

Washington, D. C.—Following is the text of the AFL declaration on wages and inflation:

Every American working for wages is personally and vitally concerned in the national effort to avert inflation. Every wage earner is equally concerned in the nation's wage policy and the effect of this policy on the workers' control.

Every American worker will do his very utmost to help his country win. But to insist that our common sense be equal, fair and just, to assure equality, fairness and justice to all in the war effort, the American Federation of Labor offers the following program of inflation control:

(1) Wage adjustment through the process of collective bargaining between labor and management.

(2) Voluntary wage stabilization agreements.

(3) Wage Policy Commission.

(4) Payment of wage increases in war bonds, cashable after the war.

(5) Immediate application of effective control of excessive corporate profits through taxation and through the control of excessive corporate profits.

(6) Program of progressive income taxation designed to prevent accumulation of excessive corporate profits.

(7) Effective control of prices on consumer goods at the retail, wholesale, and manufacturing levels, and control of prices.

(8) Control of costs on war contracts.

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Pay Increases In War Bonds, Profit and Price Control Provided In Plan

Washington, D. C.—Calling upon President Roosevelt to take action to reject all arbitrary proposals for wage freezing by legislation or decree, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor today publicly set out his new, ten-point program for inflation control, based upon the principle of equality of sacrifice.

"This is a matter of life and death to every American worker," Mr. Green declared. "It is a matter of life and death for the nation as a whole."

The Federation's ten-point program was a scathing line to those "wildly interested" charged by Mr. Green with "trying to win the war by making the American worker a victim."

These reactionary interests, aided by the Federal Reserve Board, are "trying to win the war by making the American worker a victim."

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New Army-Navy Production Flag Replaces Army "A" and Navy "E"

Washington, D. C.—The War and Navy Departments today announced that the new Army-Navy Production Flag will replace the Army "A" and Navy "E" flags.

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More Orders Navy Officials To Respect Trade Union Rights

Washington, D. C.—Rear Admiral Ben Moreel, spokesman to trade union leaders at a special session of the War Relocation Authority, today said representatives of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, which he directed, must be made to respect the rights of trade union members.

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Green Praises California Cannery For Giving Workers War Bond Bonus

Washington, D. C.—In a letter to Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau, AFL President William Green expressed high praise of the action of the California Cannery Workers Union in giving its members a bonus for purchasing war bonds.

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AFIL Wins Election

Dayton School Employees Win \$18,000 Wage Boost

Dayton, Ohio—More than 300 members of the Dayton School Employees Union won a \$18,000 wage boost in a recent election.